

[ABSTRACT]**COMPACT PRINTING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

5 A printing apparatus (10) for printing an image on a receiving substrate (20), the printing apparatus including:

- ink application means (11) for imagewise applying liquid ink to a side of the receiving substrate;
10 - a drying section (12) for drying the receiving substrate after the ink application;

- transportation means (13,14,15) for transporting the receiving substrate along a path (30-36) past the ink application means (11) and through the drying section (12);

15 wherein the path (30-36) has a path section (30-36) between a first position (P1,P2) at the ink application means (11) and a second position (P3-P7) downstream the first position (P1,P2), the path section (30-36) having first (30) and second (32) substantially straight portions and a convex curve (31) between the first (30) and second (32) substantially straight portions.

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Fig. 1